



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 13, 2005

Contact: Mike Wintemute
(916) 324-9670

Fuel Cell, Energy Efficient Lights Allow Cal/EPA Christmas Trees To Operate "Off the Grid"

(SACRAMENTO) – Adorned with energy efficient lights and powered by a hydrogen fuel cell system, the California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal/EPA) Christmas tree display will operate entirely off the power grid this season. Four lighted trees, located in the courtyard of the Cal/EPA building in Sacramento, help to demonstrate the Agency's commitment to clean energy sources and energy efficient technology.

"As these trees bring the spirit of the holidays to those who work in and visit our building, I also hope they will inspire Californians to find ways to conserve energy and embrace clean technologies in their own homes and businesses," said Cal/EPA Secretary Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.

Dr. Lloyd noted that fuel cells and other carbon-free technologies will help California meet Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets. Earlier this year, Governor Schwarzenegger called on Cal/EPA to develop strategies to reduce GHG emissions in California to 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

Cal/EPA's Christmas trees are decorated with more than 3,000 light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs that consume about two percent of the electricity used by traditional incandescent lights. Additionally, the lights are powered by a one-kilowatt hydrogen fuel cell system manufactured by Altery Systems of Rancho Cordova. The fuel cell system emits only pure water and allows the lights to operate without any electricity from the power grid.

"We are pleased to be involved with Cal/EPA's holiday demonstration of fuel cell viability," said Eric Mettler, CEO & President of Altery Systems. "Through the use of fuel cells, we are on our way to creating freedom from foreign oil, freedom from batteries, and freedom from pollution."

The Cal/EPA Christmas trees will remain lit between dusk and 9 p.m., Monday through Friday, through the end of December.

oOo